

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 11160 162246Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 TRSE-00 /072 W

-----014146 170413Z /64

R 161559Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9993
INFO WHITE HOUSE

UNCLAS CARACAS 11160

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), VE, PGOV (PEREZ)

SUBJ: PRESIDENT PEREZ' COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S STAND
ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. ON NOVEMBER 11 PRESIDENT PEREZ MET WITH THE ENTIRE FRIEDSHIP FORCE CONTINGENT (280 PERSONS) FROM NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. IN THE COURSE OF HIS EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS HE SPOKE WARMLY AND ELOQUENTLY ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITION. BECAUSE OF THE SPONTENEITY AND SINCRITY OF HIS REMARKS, WE BELIEVE THEY WILL BE OF INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE AND WE TRANSCRIBE BELOW THE TEXT OF THOSE REMARKS TAKEN FROM A TAPE RECORDING OF THE OCCASION:

1. QUOTE: WE EXPECTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT IN A FEW DAYS; UNFORTUNATELY HE HAD TO POSTPONE HIS VISIT. WE UNDERSTAND IT VERY WELL. AND BY EXPERIENCE WE KNOW THAT TO GOVERN IS NOT EASY. WE HAVE GREAT FAITH IN THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. HE HAS MOVED US DEEPLY WITH HIS ETHICAL MESSAGE TO HUMANITY, BECAUSE WITHOUT ANY QUESTION THE UNITED STATES IS A GREAT NATION, CERTAINLY THE MOST IMPORTANT NATION IN THE WORLD. AND USUALLY GREAT NATIONS HAVE SO MANY PROBLEMS TO TAKE CARE OF, THAT MANY TIMES AND I WOULD SAY ALMOST ALWAYS--THEY SEEM TO FORGET THE FUNDAMENTAL VALUES OF THE SPIRIT. IT IS COMFORTING TO HEAR THE HEAD OF A

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GREAT STATE SPEAKING ABOUT THE ETHICAL VALUES OF SOCIETY AND REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS AS FUNDAMENTAL IN HIS ADMINISTRATION. IT IS VERY POSSIBLE, THAT FOR THE COMMON MAN IN THE UNITED STATES, THIS DOES

NOT HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF SIGNIFICANCE, BECAUSE USUALLY WHEN SOMEONE HAS SOMETHING HE DOES NOT GIVE IT THE SAME IMPORTANCE AS THOSE WHO DO NOT. THE UNITED STATES IS A GREAT DEMOCRACY; IN THE UNITED STATES

PEOPLE EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS. HUMAN RIGHTS ARE A TRUE REALITY IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT A LARGE PART OF HUMANITY LIVES UNDER VERY DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HERE IN LATIN AMERICA, FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE SUFFERED A GREAT DEAL FROM A LACK OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THERE ARE PRACTICALLY NO POLITICAL LEADERS IN LATIN AMERICA WHO HAVE NOT SUFFERED EITHER EXILE OR JAIL OR BOTH. THERE ARE THOUSANDS-- HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS--WHO HAVE DIED FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY AND WHO ARE IMPRISONED AND SUFFERING INHUMAN TORTURE. YES* WE DO KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO RAISE THE BANNER IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. PERHAPS NO MESSAGE FROM A UNITED STATES PRESIDENT HAS GONE SO DEEPLY INTO THE LATIN AMERICAN HEART AS THE MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT CARTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS. I THINK THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD FEEL PROUD THAT, THROUGH THE VOICE OF THEIR, PRESIDENT, THIS BANNER IS BEING RAISED SO HIGH AND SO NOBLY. WE DO NOT FEEL THIS PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT CARTER IS INTERVENING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OUR COUNTRIES BECAUSE HE IS SIMPLY PROCLAIMING PRINCIPLES THAT ALL OUR COUNTRIES HAVE SIGNED IN THE UNITED NATIONS OR THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES. WE ARE ALL OBLIGATED TO COMPLY WITH THESE DECLARATIONS, AND TO REMIND NATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS THAT THIS IS A COMMITMENT TO HUMANITY. I THINK THAT THIS IS A DOCTRINE WELL WORTH ESPousing AND THAT IT GIVES GREAT PRESTIGE--BEYOND ANYTHING MATERIAL--TO THE GREAT NATION, AND TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THAT NATION, THAT HE HAS DARED TO RAISE THIS ISSUE BEFORE THE WORLD. I AM CERTAIN THAT THERE IS NOT ONE LATIN AMERICAN IN ANY OF OUR COUNTRIES THAT IS NOT IN THIS MOMENT HAPPY AND RECONCILED WITH THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THIS STAND BY PRESIDENT CARTER. UNQUOTE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: CARACAS
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771154/aaaabtrc.tel
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